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EXAMINER	
ZHOU, TING	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2173	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/908,983	O'SHAUGHNESSY ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ting Zhou	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *06 June 2006*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *3,5,6,8,11-13,15-35,37-40,42-52 and 54* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *3,5,6,8,13,15-35,37-40,42-44,46-52 and 54* is/are rejected.

7)☒ Claim(s) *11, 12 and 45* is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 6 June 2006 have been received and entered. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 11-13, 15-35, 37-40, 42-52 and 54 as amended are pending in the application.

2. It is noted that the claims 11-12 and 26 were previously acknowledged as allowable subject matter dependent upon a rejected base claim, in the final office action dated 8 March 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 11-12 and 45 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The present invention teaches an interface that combines communications and file management.

Claim 11, when taken with parent claims 30, 43 and 8 as a whole, identify the distinct feature of determining whether a first resulting message is text, and if the first resulting message is text, adding the contents of the first resulting message as a sticker to all the other resulting messages and deleting the first resulting box from the inbox.

Claim 12, when taken with parent claims 30, 43 and 8 as a whole, identify the distinct feature of if the communication is a record in the standardized format, determining whether the communication includes files which are not one of the one or more files of the communication; if

the message includes files which are not one of the one or more files of the communication, determining a form of encoding for the one or more files of the communication and decoding the one or more files of the communication according to the form of encoding. The closest prior art, Microsoft Outlook (Screenshots 1-19) teaches an email program interface for filtering and manipulating email files with attachments. However, the prior art fails to teach "determining whether a first resulting message is text, and if the first resulting message is text, adding the contents of the first resulting message as a sticker to all the other resulting messages and deleting the first resulting box from the inbox", or "if the communication is a record in the standardized format, determining whether the communication includes files which are not one of the one or more files of the communication; if the message includes parts which are not one of the one or more files of the communication, determining a form of encoding for the one or more files of the communication and decoding the one or more files of the communication according to the form of encoding". Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

Claim 45, when taken with parent claim 30 as a whole, identify the distinct feature of identifying one or more files of one or more application types not associated with a communication and storing the identified files in the particular activity folder as separate files that can be manipulated from the activity folder regardless of application type. The closest prior art, Microsoft® Outlook, copyright 1998 (hereinafter "Outlook") and Mellin et al. WO 01/65336 (hereinafter "Mellin") teach manipulating the files associated with a communication separately within an activity folder. In the case of the Outlook reference, Outlook teaches automatically identifying a particular communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types (Outlook: a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different

application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5) and automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication in one and the same activity folder (Outlook: user defined directory folders, shown on the left hand side of the Outlook interface shown in Screenshot 2, comprises a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5). In the case of the Mellin reference, Mellin teaches automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication as separate files; automatically generating code for associating the separate files with each other, as related to a single communication; and thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the particular communication to be manipulated as independent files from the activity folder regardless of the application type (extracting attachments from emails and storing them as separate files so the attachments can be treated as separate entities) (Mellin: page 17, lines 15-35 and further recited in the Abstract). However, the prior art fails to teach manipulating files that are associated with communications, i.e. email messages, with files that are not associated with communications, i.e. documents not associated with email messages within the activity folders. Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious. Claims 23-29 depend upon claim 22 and are allowable subject matter for the same reasons.

5. Claims 22-29 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The present invention teaches an interface that combines communications and file management.

Claim 22 identifies the distinct feature of "code for manipulating computer files within the activity folder, thereby allowing a user to group and organize subjectively related files of various application types within any of said activity folders, including grouping files which are associated with communications together with files which are not associated with communication within any of said activity folders. The closest prior art, Mellin et al. WO 01/65336 (hereinafter "Mellin") teaches a computer program product comprising code for receiving communications files, wherein a communication file comprises one or more application type files, code for selecting an activity folder where an activity folder has at least one or more separate current user-defined activity, and code for associating the communications files comprising one or more application type files into separate current user defined activity folders, including code for allocating the separate user defined activity folders within the activity folder for each of the communication files comprising one or more application type files, thereby providing an activity folder which includes related communications files comprising one or more application type files in separate user defined activity folders within one activity folder. However, the prior art fails to teach grouping files which are associated with communications, i.e. email messages, with files which are not associated with communications, i.e. documents not associated with email messages together within the activity folders. Thus, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious. Claims 23-29 depend upon claim 22 and are allowable subject matter for the same reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 22-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 22 recites the limitation "the activity folders" in line 22. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claims 23-29 are dependent upon claim 22 and are rejected for the same reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 13, 17-21, 30-35, 37-40, 42-44, 46-52 and 54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft® Outlook, copyright 1998 (hereinafter "Outlook") and Mellin et al. WO 01/65336 (hereinafter "Mellin").

Referring to claims 30 and 54, Outlook teaches automatically identifying a particular communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types (Outlook: a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5) and automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication in one and the same activity folder (Outlook:

user defined directory folders, shown on the left hand side of the Outlook interface shown in Screenshot 2, comprises a plurality of emails, with a plurality of objects, or attached files of different application types, such as PowerPoint files, Excel files, etc., as shown in Screenshot 5). However, Outlook fails to explicitly teach that each of the files of the particular communication are stored as separate files, associating the separate files of the particular communication with each other, thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the particular communication to be manipulated as independent files from the activity folder regardless of the application type. Mellin teaches a method of automatically identifying a particular communication comprising one or more files of one or application types (receiving emails with attachments) (Mellin: page10, lines 1-14 and Figures 8 and 23) similar to that of Outlook. In addition, Mellin further teaches automatically storing each of the files of the particular communication as separate files; automatically generating code for associating the separate files with each other, as related to a single communication; and thereby automatically allowing the separate files of the particular communication to be manipulated as independent files from the activity folder regardless of the application type (extracting attachments from emails and storing them as separate files so the attachments can be treated as separate entities) (Mellin: page 17, lines 15-35 and further recited in the Abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Outlook and Mellin before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the method for displaying and manipulating computer files within activity folders of Outlook to include the manipulation of files of a communication as separate files taught by Mellin. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide users with document control in sharing information over the Internet amongst multiple users (Mellin: page 2, lines 16-

27), preventing users from having to manually extract and save large numbers of file attachments (Mellin: page 17, lines 28-31).

Referring to claim 3, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein the one or more files of the communication include attachment notes, file identification modifiers and external file links (Mellin: Figure 23).

Referring to claims 5, Outlook, as modified, teach providing a control record for each of the one or more files of a communication in a directory location for indexing the one or more files of a communication and for each of the one or more files of the communication, providing a communications record in the activity folder (filtering the incoming emails into respective folders and displaying the email in the folder) (Mellin: page 10, lines 1-14, page 11, lines 4-6, page 17, lines 16-35 and Figures 8 and 23).

Referring to claim 6, Outlook, as modified, teach displaying a folder tree (Mellin: hierarchical folder tree displayed on the left-hand side of the interface shown in Figures 8 and 23); displaying the contents of an activity folder (Mellin: for example, Figure 8 shows the content of the "Marketing" folder and Figure 23 shows the content of the "Document" folder); and storing the separated files of the communication as related files within the particular activity folder (extracting attachments from messages and storing them separately in a way that allows files that originated together to be grouped together) (Mellin: page 17, lines 16-35).

Referring to claim 8, Outlook, as modified, teach transferring email communications and related attachments to and from a host and manipulating data included in the email communications and related attachments (sending and receiving email messages, the messages including attachments; users can further manipulate messages in folders such as move or delete

the message) (Mellin: page 16, line 5-page 18, 35), the transfer including determining whether the one or more files of the communication is a record in a standardized file format, if the one or more files of the communication is a record in the standardized format, presenting the record in an ordered manner (determining if the messages is in a standardized format, i.e. matches a filtering rule such as a keyword match, and if the message does meet the filter rule, place the message in the corresponding folder) (Mellin: page 9, line 22-page 11, line 32); and determining whether the one or more files of the communication is a record in a predetermined format (determining whether the email message has attached files) (Mellin: page 17, lines 16-35), and permitting the user to assign the file attachments to a respective folder by allocating the file attachments folder space in a file folder of the files to which the file attachments are associated (extracting the attached files and allocating them to the "Documents" folder) (Mellin: page 10, lines 1-13 and page 17, lines 16-35), wherein the activity folder comprises related attachments regardless of application type (Mellin: Figure 22) and the activity folder is one of the following: a user-defined folder, a system-defined folder, a program-defined folder (Mellin: page 10, lines 1-13).

Referring to claim 13, Outlook, as modified, teach executing a find routine to locate a first file in an activity folder (finding and retrieving files via a file request routine, i.e. command) (Mellin: page 19, line 19-page 20, line 18 and Figures 5 and 22), making a temporary list of extended file information records (Mellin: a list of matching records, or files with their corresponding extended information such as the size of the file shown in Figure 5; this is further shown in Figure 22); determining if extended file information for the file is available, if the extended file information is available, displaying file information concerning the file (Mellin:

displaying available extended file information for the file, such as the size of the file shown in Figure 5; this is further shown in Figure 22); determining if a sticker note associated with the file is found and if the sticker note is found, displaying the existence of the sticker note (Mellin: displaying available sticker notes, such as a description of what the file is, as shown in Figures 5 and 22); determining if tag information associated with the file is found and if the tag information is found, displaying the existence of the tag information (Mellin: displaying available tag information as shown in Figures 5 and 22); and repeating the sequence until no further files are found in the folder (information available are displayed for each file found for the file request) (Mellin: Figures 5 and 22).

Referring to claims 17, Outlook, as modified, teach tagging a file in response to a predetermined mouse click (the file selected by the user via a mouse click selection is tagged for user manipulation such as moving it to another folder) (Outlook: Screenshots 12-13); providing a representation of the file in a mouse "drag" representation to follow the mouse until receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click (dragging the file until another mouse click is received, which causes the file to be dropped into the selected folder) (Outlook: Screenshots 12-13); and providing a "release mouse click" function in response to the receiving another mouse click (in response to receiving another mouse click, or releasing the clicked mouse, the release mouse click function of dropping the file into the selected folder is carried out; for example, the user selected, or tagged file via a mouse click on the file, shown highlighted in Screenshot 12 is dragged and dropped onto the "Co-workers" folder upon the release of the mouse click, as shown Screenshot 13), thereby permitting folder allocation without a requirement that the user hold a mouse button during a mouse drag operation (moving a message to another folder via selection

of the "Move" button and then selection of a folder, so the user can select two buttons to move a message, instead of holding the mouse button during a drag operation) (Mellin: page 18, lines 21-25).

Referring to claim 18, Outlook, as modified, teach tagging a file in response to a predetermined mouse click (the file selected by the user via a mouse click selection is tagged for user manipulation such as moving it to another folder) (Outlook: Screenshots 12-13); providing a representation of the file in a mouse "drag" representation to follow the mouse until receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click (dragging the file until another mouse click is received, which causes the file to be dropped into the selected folder) (Outlook: Screenshots 12-13); providing a "release mouse click" function in response to receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click (in response to receiving another mouse click, or releasing the clicked mouse, the release mouse click function of dropping the file into the selected folder is carried out; for example, the user selected, or tagged file via a mouse click on the file, shown highlighted in Screenshot 12 is dragged and dropped onto the "Co-workers" folder upon the release of the mouse click, as shown Screenshot 13), thereby permitting folder allocation without a requirement that the user hold a mouse button during a mouse "drag" operation (moving a message to another folder via selection of the "Move" button and then selection of a folder, so the user can select two buttons to move a message, instead of holding the mouse button during a drag operation) (Mellin: page 18, lines 21-25); accepting user inputs for file manipulation commands; and performing a file manipulation subroutines corresponding to the user inputs (file manipulation such as moving a message from one folder to another) (Mellin: page 18, lines 21-25).

Referring to claims 19, Outlook, as modified, teach accepting user inputs for file manipulation by tagging a file in response to a predetermined mouse click (the file selected by the user via a mouse click selection is tagged for user manipulation such as moving it to another folder) (Outlook: Screenshots 12-13); providing a representation of the file in a mouse "drag" representation to follow the mouse until receiving another instance of the predetermined mouse click (dragging the file until another mouse click is received, which causes the file to be dropped into the selected folder) (Outlook: Screenshots 12-13); providing a "release mouse click" function in response to the receiving another mouse click (in response to receiving another mouse click, or releasing the clicked mouse, the release mouse click function of dropping the file into the selected folder is carried out; for example, the user selected, or tagged file via a mouse click on the file, shown highlighted in Screenshot 12 is dragged and dropped onto the "Co-workers" folder upon the release of the mouse click, as shown Screenshot 13), thereby permitting folder allocation without a requirement that the user hold a mouse button during a mouse "drag" operation (moving a message to another folder via selection of the "Move" button and then selection of a folder, so the user can select two buttons to move a message, instead of holding the mouse button during a drag operation) (Mellin: page 18, lines 21-25); performing a file manipulation subroutines corresponding to user inputs (receiving user input of file manipulation commands such as selecting and dragging the file and carrying out the user inputted command; for example, user manipulation of the file shown in Screenshot 12 of selecting and dragging the file to the "Co-workers" folder causing the manipulation subroutine of placing the file into the "Co-workers" folder, as shown in Screenshot 13); selectively associating file attachments with selected ones of the files, and locating the file attachments in the respective folder by allocating

the file attachments folder space in a file folder of the files to which the file attachments are associated (users can select email files with associated file attachments and store them into different directory folders, as shown in Screenshots 9-10 and 12-13); and the association of the subset of the communications files with the current folder including allocating the communications files with a file folder definition of the current folder, thereby providing a common folder structure which includes communications files in individual file folders containing related user files (incoming mail files are filtered and sorted into corresponding folders containing related mail files, as shown in Screenshot 3, according to user set up rules shown in Screenshot 4).

Referring to claim 20, Outlook, as modified, teach accepting user inputs for file manipulation commands, performing a file manipulation subroutines corresponding to the user inputs (file manipulation such as moving a message from one folder to another or deleting a message) (Mellin: page 18, lines 21-25); and associating file attachments with the user selected folders, and locating the file attachments in the respective folder by allocating the file attachments folder space in a file folder of the files to which the file attachments are associated (received messages can have attached files, which can be allocated to a folder) (Mellin: page 17, lines 16-35 and Figures 8 and 35).

Referring to claims 21, Outlook, as modified, teach transferring email communications to and from a host and manipulating data included in the email communications in accordance with the association of the subset of files with the folders and the allocation of the file attachments folder space (sending and receiving email messages, the messages including attachments; users can further manipulate messages in folders such as move or delete the message) (Mellin: page

16, line 5-page 18, 35), the transfer including determining whether the message is a record in a standardized file format, if the message is a record in the standardized format, presenting the record in an ordered manner (determining if the messages is in a standardized format, i.e. matches a filtering rule such as a keyword match, and if the message does meet the filter rule, place the message in the corresponding folder) (Mellin: page 9, line 22-page 11, line 32); and determining whether the message is record in a predetermined format including association of file attachments (determining whether the email message has attached files) (Mellin: page 17, lines 16-35), and permitting the user to assign the file attachments to a respective folder by allocating the file attachments folder space in a file folder of the files to which the file attachments are associated (extracting the attached files and allocating them to the "Documents" folder) (Mellin: page 10, lines 1-13 and page 17, lines 16-35).

Referring to claim 31, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein the general folder structure is part of a tree directory structure maintained by the information handling system (Mellin: as shown in Figure 3, folders are divided into groups; furthermore, the left-hand side of Figure 8 shows a tree structure of "Folders" and the folder under "Folders", such as ""Unfiled", "Documents", etc.).

Referring to claim 32, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein the activity folder comprises related files of one or more application type (for example, Figure 8 shows related files stored in the "Marketing" folder) (Mellin: page 11, lines 4-6), wherein the activity folder is one of the following: a user-defined folder, a system-defined folder, a program-defined folder (user-defined folders) (Mellin: page 10, lines 8-13).

Referring to claims 33 and 34, Outlook, as modified teach wherein the one or more files of the activity folder are related according to at least one of the following: activity, work session, project, task, operation, date, time, order, client, user input and contact information (the files can be filtered into folders according to the activity, i.e. keywords) (Mellin: page 10, line 28-page 11, line 32).

Referring to claim 35, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein the method of identifying the communication includes at least one of the following: creating, receiving, accessing, storing, processing, moving, copying, and sending the communication (sending and receiving messages) (Mellin: page 16, line 5-page 17, line 35).

Referring to claim 37, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein manipulating includes at least one of storing, processing, accessing, deleting, sending, receiving, creating, moving, copying, viewing, renaming, and editing (users can perform operations such as storing files and retrieving files) (Mellin: page 17, line 16-page 18, line 20).

Referring to claim 38, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein manipulating the separate files of the communication includes manipulating the separate files between one or more activity folders (moving the files between folders) (Mellin: page 18, lines 21-25).

Referring to claim 39, Outlook, as modified, teach identifying at least one of the files of the communication from the activity folder and manipulating the identified file from the activity folder in response to a user input (users can view a list of messages, i.e. files within a folder and manipulate the file by selecting it to display the message content) (Mellin: page 18, lines 8-30).

Referring to claim 40, Outlook, as modified, teach storing the manipulated one or more files of the communication with related one or more files of the activity folder (storing extracted

attachment files in a way that allows files that originated together to be grouped together) (Mellin: page 17, lines 16-35).

Referring to claim 42, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein the communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types comprises one or more of the following: application files, document files, contact files, communication files and web files (Mellin: for example, the attachments shown in Figure 23 includes files such as PDF documents, Excel application files, etc.).

Referring to claim 43, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein the communication comprises one or more files of one or more application types is identified as an email communication file and related attachments to the email communication file (receiving an email message with attachments) (Mellin: page 17, lines 16-35).

Referring to claim 44, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein the communication comprising one or more files of one or more application types is identified as a text file and related attachments to the text file (uploading text files such as documents to the folder) (Mellin: page 18, lines 3-20 and Figures 8 and 23).

Referring to claim 46, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein the information handling system associates an application program for each of the one or more application types of the one or more files of the communication (the attachments have associated application program, such as Excel) (Mellin: Figure 22), and further comprising separating the communication upon arrival into an email communication file and one or more related attachment files of one or more application type (extracting attachments from email messages) (Mellin: page 17, lines 16-35); storing the email file and the one or more related attachment files of one or more application type

in the particular activity folder as related files (extracting attachments from messages and storing them separately in a way that allows files that originated together to be grouped together) (Mellin: page 17, lines 16-35); and manipulating at least one of the following: the email file and the one or more related attachment files as separate files in the particular activity folder without accessing the application program associated with the one or more application types of the one or more files of the communication (users can manipulate each extracted attached file separately, such as move the file between folders) (Mellin: page 17, line 16-page 18, line 35).

Referring to claim 47, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein manipulating includes at least one of the following: storing, processing, accessing, deleting, sending, receiving, creating, moving, copying, viewing, renaming and editing (users can perform operations such as storing files and retrieving files) (Mellin: page 17, line 16-page 18, line 20).

Referring to claim 48, Outlook, as modified, teach identifying at least one of the files of the communication from the activity folder and manipulating the identified file in the activity folder in response to a user input (users can view a list of messages, i.e. files within a folder and manipulate the file by selecting it to display the message content) (Mellin: page 18, lines 8-30).

Referring to claim 49, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein identifying at least one of the files of the communication includes at least one of creating, receiving, accessing, storing, processing, editing, moving, copying and sending the file (sending and receiving messages) (Mellin: page 16, line 5-page 17, line 35).

Referring got claim 50, Outlook, as modified, teach storing the manipulated file with related one or more files in one or more activity folder regardless of application type (storing

extracted attachment files in a way that allows files that originated together to be grouped together) (Mellin: page 17, lines 16-35).

Referring to claim 51, Outlook, as modified, teach wherein only one of the email message file and the one or more related attachment files are manipulated (treating each extracted attached file as a separate file) (Mellin: page 17, lines 16-35).

Referring to claim 52, Outlook, as modified teach wherein the manipulating is limited to manipulating the one or more related attachment files in the particular activity folder, without manipulating the related email file, by one or more of the following: processing, and performing operations on the one or more related attachment file (since the attached files of an email are extracted and stored separately, users can interact with the attached files separately from the originating message) (Mellin: page 17, lines 16-35 and further recited in the Abstract).

8. Claims 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Microsoft® Outlook, copyright 1998 (hereinafter "Outlook") and Mellin et al. WO 01/65336 (hereinafter "Mellin"), as applied to claim 30 above, and Venkatraman U.S. Patent 6,014,688 (hereinafter "Venkatraman").

Referring to claims 15, Outlook and Mellin teach all of the limitations as applied to claim 30 above. In addition, Outlook and Mellin teach transferring email communications to and from a host and manipulating data included in the one or more related attachments of the email communications in accordance with the activity folder (sending and receiving email messages, the messages including attachments; users can further manipulate messages in folders such as move or delete the message) (Mellin: page 16, line 5-page 18, 35) and if the transfer is a receive

operation, permitting input from a user to assign the file attachments to an activity folder (extracting the attached files and allocating them to the "Documents" folder) (Mellin: page 10, lines 1-13 and page 17, lines 16-35). However, Outlook and Mellin fail to explicitly teach if the transfer is a send operation, determining if the recipient is tagged for encryption, and if the recipient is tagged for encryption, sending the file in encrypted form. Venkatraman teaches an email program capable of transferring messages to and from a host (Venkatraman: column 1, lines 51-59 and Abstract) similar to that of Outlook and Mellin. In addition, Venkatraman further teaches if the transfer is a send operation, determining if the recipient is tagged for encryption, and if the recipient is tagged for encryption, sending the file in encrypted form (Venkatraman: column 4, lines 61 – column 5, line 2 and column 6, line 51- column 7, line 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Outlook, Mellin and Venkatraman before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the email program for sending and receiving emails of Outlook and Mellin to include the ability to send encrypted emails taught by Venkatraman. One would have been motivated to make such a combination in order to provide more security and privacy for personal and confidential material that are sent via electronic messages and it further allows verification of message receipt.

Referring to claim 16, Outlook, as modified, teach accepting user inputs for file manipulation commands and performing a file manipulation subroutines corresponding to the user inputs (file manipulation such as moving a message from one folder to another or deleting a message) (Mellin: page 18, lines 21-25); and associating file attachments with selected ones of the files, and locating the file attachments in the related activity folder (received messages can

have attached files, which can be stored in a folder) (Mellin: page 17, lines 16-35 and Figures 8 and 35).

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 6 June 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive:

10. The applicant argues that the Mellin Provisional does not provide description of any process of separating or extracting attachments from the message. The examiner respectfully disagrees. On page 5, lines 14-22 of the Mellin Provisional, Mellin states that "In addition, the system will take any documents that are attached to that email and present them in a Document Manager. The system will determine whether or not it has received an attachment with the same name previously. If it has, it will compare the edit date of this new attachment to the edit date of the document that is already in the system to determine which version of the document is the most recent. Based on this comparison, the system will present only the most recent version of the document in the Document Manager". In other words, the Mellin Provisional teaches that the attachments to a message are taken from a message, i.e. separated, and put into a Document Manager; furthermore, the Mellin Provisional indicates that the system can manipulate each attachment individually, i.e. by comparing each attachment with different versions of the attachment. Therefore, the examiner respectfully asserts that the Mellin Provisional provides support for the Mellin PCT's teaching of separating or extracting attachments from the message.

11. Applicant's arguments that Mellin does not teach storing email message and attachments in one and the same activity folder have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection of Outlook and Mellin. Specifically, Outlook teaches that email messages and their associated attachments are stored in the same activity folder, for example the "Inbox" folder, as shown in Screenshot 5.

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TZ

KIEU D. VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER